

THE BLUE GOOSE MYSTERY STERN CODE OF HINDOOS.

Tale of a Dutch Ship That Was Regarded with Suspicion by Early New Yorkers.

When New York was still young a sturdy Dutch merchant by the name of Van Linkle acquired wealth by his ventures in shipping. In those days, writes Dan Beard, in Recreation, the difference between a pirate and an honest merchantman was often as slight as it is to-day between an honest merchant and a trust magnate, and it had little or nothing to do with business ethics. Van Linkle sent many ships to the "Red Sea," as it was called, loaded with gunpowder and shot, which was traded off for silks, spices and oriental goods. These were brought back to New York by vessels manned by strangely dressed and fierce-looking sailors. The details of the trade did not appear on the books of Van Linkle, though his less venturesome neighbors shook their heads and threw out dark hints and even suggested that the gunpowder was exploded and the shot expelled through the brass and bronze throats of the comical old cannons before the trade was effected. However that may be, Van Linkle invested his earnings in land and generations of people who needed the land as an opportunity to carry on business willingly aid large sums for the privilege of using it, and the Van Linkle estate grew and fattened on the necessities of the community until now, without labor and without effort, it had so increased that its value was estimated in millions.

CZAREVITCH'S REGIMENT.

Russian Troopers Who Have a Singular Distinguishing Feature.

When the baby czarevitch was a few hours old he was gazed at by Pavlovski regiment of the guard, one of the finest looking bunch of troops in Europe. No man can belong to this regiment unless his nose is decidedly turned up and the more reticent it is the more desirable the result.

As might be imagined, says the Boston Herald, the regiment is not marked by comeliness, but it is because Emperor Paul, whose nose had nostrils that caught the rain, conceived the idea that he would collect a company of soldiers and officers possessed of the same extraordinary style of feature that the Pavlovski regiment was so named, but his conservative descendants still pay him the honor of retaining his nose and recruiting it from the ugliest men in Russia.

Another conservative observance instituted by Emperor Paul is compelling the Pavlovskis to blow their noses immediately before the appearance on the scene of the sovereign on the occasion of any inspection by him of the regiment. Baby Alexis, if he is as obnoxious as other kids, will be certain to comment on the proboscides of his guard. However, it won't hurt their feelings. That is why they are there.

FARMER HAS STRANGE PETS

Tames Snakes and Trains Them to Exterminate Mice and Moles.

In a large cornfield on the farm of Josiah Sack are two tame pine snakes one measuring seven feet in length and four inches through the thickest part and the other six and one-half feet long and nearly as thick. Sack handles the reptiles as he would a pet cat, and even children are able to fondle them reports the Philadelphia Record.

The reptiles live on toads, mice and moles, and thereby rid the farm of its greatest pests. During the day and evening the snakes may be seen burrowing beneath the ground searching for moles. They are not in the least dangerous and show no fear when they are touched.

At night or at noonday the reptiles coil up together under a brush pile beneath the fence and sleep until they become hungry. Farmer Sack cautions everybody who goes to see the snakes to do them no harm whatever, and declares he would not part with them for a large sum, as they are not only harmless but of great benefit by killing mice and moles.

Pope Pius Still Learning.

Talking to some cardinals who came to congratulate him on his seventieth birthday, Pope Pius said: "I never thought I would learn as much in my old days as I am doing. For instance, I can now write my name without musing up a cassock worth 200 francs. For years I indulged in the habit of wiping my pen on the left sleeve of my coat before I began and during writing. Of course that didn't matter much as long as I wore black clothes, but when I donned the white papal habit things looked different, and so did I when I came from my writing-room. For a time my valet didn't know where to get enough clothes for me to wear. Then I determined to break with this bad habit, and I did. One can give up anything if one tries hard enough."

Land-Poor Indians.

The Cheyennes are land rich, yet often suffer from extreme hunger. When that way they sell their all, regardless of the value. When they get in this shape the curio hunter invades their homes and the tinkle of silver rattles robs them of articles they would rather give their lives than barter away.

Time for That.

Mr. Feathertop—Just a moment, Miss Tartum. Let me tell you what I think—
Miss Tartum—Certainly; I can wait long enough for that.—Chicago Tribune.

The Householder Is Not Supposed to Indulge in Desires of the the Flesh.

Absolute self-mastery is the ideal of a Hindu, writes Swami Abhedananda in Good Housekeeping. Every man and woman in India struggles hard to accomplish it by practicing austerities, fasting and various kinds of devotional exercises. The householder is not supposed to indulge in the desires of the flesh. He should practice moderation in eating and drinking. He should hold the ideal of simple living and practice it in his daily life. The Hindu men and women are not allowed to drink liquors, and the higher the social rank, the more rigorous becomes the law of self-restraint. The majority of the Hindus live strictly upon vegetarian diet, and do not eat animal flesh. They do not kill animals for food, and they train their children to practice this virtue of non-killing. They do not believe that lower animals are created to sustain human life; but, on the contrary, they hold that in the process of evolution the life of the lower animal is as important as that of the human being. The lower animals possess mental faculties, feelings and intellect just as we do, the difference being only of degree and not of kind. What right have we to kill them when we do not possess the power of giving life to any?

The ideal of truthfulness is held very high, and is carefully practiced in the Hindu home. There are many families in India whose ideal is to sacrifice everything for the sake of truth, because they believe that the eternal truth cannot be realized by one who is not absolutely truthful. The Hindu boys and girls learn these lessons in their Sanskrit primer and try to live up to them as they grow older.

FOR OWNERS OF A COLLIE.

Some Advice Concerning the Care of Dog That Becomes a Great Favorite.

A few words on general care: In all favorable weather wash the dog once a month, and in summer once each week, advises A. D. Burhaus, in Recreation. Feed him twice daily of cooked food. Do not keep him too fat. Good muscular condition and a smart, alert collie are not the result of too much feed. Once a week give a half teaspoonful of powdered sulphur in a pan with some milk. It keeps his blood in fine condition. Use a medicated animal soap when washing him. Disinfect the kennel with crude carbolic acid once a month. In fall and winter, when washing is out of the question, dust him through all his dense coat with a tobacco dust powder. It is a fine method of keeping his skin clean and insects off after contact with other dogs. Have him clipped in summer if convenient, and let him go on the vacation with you. He will love the water and it will be a sin to leave him home. "Once owner of a collie, always an owner," is an old but true saying. No circumstances will prevent the keeping of a collie after they have once won you. We know the truth of this in a dozen instances. They are the pride of every one who possesses them and will always be first in the heart of a man or woman who is fond of the dumb but true.

KNEW HER CASE AT ONCE.

Elderly Society Leader Startled by Bluntness of Eminent Physician.

One of America's greatest physicians was called to the bedside of a grand dame of distinguished name and many millions, who is a leader of American society. But now the grand dame groaned and grunted in her silken bed like any washerwoman. The physician examined her carefully. Then he said: "You must get up every morning at six o'clock. Take for breakfast a cup of weak tea and two pieces of dry toast. From nine to eleven exercise, either walking or sweeping or dusting. At noon lunch on a slice of cold meat, filtered water and stale bread. Don't sleep in the afternoon; exercise again. For dinner take nothing but a little meat, a vegetable and toast. No sweets, no wines, no social dissipation of any kind."

The eyes of the grande dame flashed fire as she said: "But, doctor, do you comprehend my position? Do you know who I am?" "Perfectly, madam," answered the physician. "You are an old woman with a sour stomach."

Wonderful Boy.

"I've got a kid at home who is a wonder," said the proud father to his bachelor friend. The bachelor turned in disgust, and was walking away when the proud father overtook him.

"I was reading to my wife about Witzhof, when the kid spoke up. 'Say, pa,' he said, 'when a man has two wives is it a case of bigamy?'"

"Yes," I told him.

"Well, say, pa, when a man has one wife, is it a case of monogamy?"—N. Y. Sun.

The Limit.

"There's nothing that makes a would-be society woman madder than to find her name left out of the report of some swell function she attended."

"Unless it's to find besides that her rival's name is in."—Philadelphia Press.

Slight Pretext. A governess in Germany named Kathie Schmidt wrote her name in a visitors' book of a hotel just below the signatures of the king of Saxony and two princesses. She is being prosecuted for lese majesty.

ESSENCE OF THE STEER.

Beef Juice in Large Quantities Is Manufactured for the Market.

Meat extracts have become steadily more popular within recent years, especially for use by invalids, and the quantities of beef consumed in their manufacture are astonishing. One factory in Fray Bentos, in Uruguay, uses from 400 to 500 cattle daily for this purpose, its output amounting to about 3,000 pounds of the concentrated product per diem.

It is well understood that such extracts contain no nutriment; a person fed on unlimited quantities of them would soon starve to death. They hold merely the flavor of the meat, and, while very palatable, are useful as a stimulant. Beyond this, owing to their palatability, they are good for dyspeptics, encouraging the secretion of the digestive juices, and physicians frequently prescribe them in cases of debility where the vitality of the patient is at a low ebb.

Experience has shown that the meat of steers furnishes an extract of darker color than that of cows and with a stronger suggestion of game flavor. The essence of the cow has a milder taste and a lighter hue. The flesh of animals under four years of age is not used for this purpose, because the extract possesses an insipid flavor like that of veal.

The beef is chopped by machinery and exposed for some hours to live steam under pressure. In this way everything in it that will dissolve is converted into a broth, which passes first into a centrifugal apparatus for separating the fat and thence into great kettles, in which the albumen and fibrin settle to the bottom. The pure extract is finally drawn off, evaporated, filtered and put up in suitable receptacles for market.

Of the residue the fat is purified for use as machine oil and in soap making. The gelatine is employed in the manufacture of printers' rollers and as a finishing material in cloth mills. What remains is dried and utilized either as a fertilizer or as food for pigs and fishes. Some of it also is said to be made up into dog biscuit, for which purpose it is well suited, inasmuch as the stuff left behind after the removal of the extract contains all the nutriment that was in the original meat.

MILLIARD OF POST-CARDS.

Germany Leads the List of Nations, Using 1,161,000,000 in One Year.

A return which has just been issued by the postal union for the year 1903 contains some interesting items, especially with regard to the extent to which post cards have ingratiated themselves with the public, says Lloyd's Weekly.

It appears from this return that in the matter of post cards the German empire heads the list with no fewer than 1,161,000,000 posted there during that year.

Even the United States, whose population is about one-half in excess of that of Germany, can boast of only 770,500,000 of those missives. Great Britain comes next with 613,000,000, Japan, which previously used next to Germany most post cards, is now fourth on the list with 487,500,000.

The inhabitants of Germany alone, therefore, are now availing themselves of nearly as many post cards as the United States and Japan together. Other countries are greatly left behind in the race; not one of them reaches the number of 300,000,000.

As to letters, however, the United States is far ahead of all other countries. The total number of letters posted there during 1903 was 4,109,000,000. Great Britain follows in its wake with 2,597,000,000, and then Germany with 1,648,000,000. France posted 844,000,000 letters.

ONLY ROBBED GERMANS.

French Woman Who Had a Singular Reason for Picking of Pockets.

In Paris, the police have discovered a woman whose peculiar sort of patriotism has been compared to that of Boule de Sulf in Guy de Maupassant's story. She was arrested recently for having robbed a German merchant of £68. To the magistrate she made a strange declaration. She said that her main object in life was to decoy Germans and to rob them. She went about with them to cafes and music halls, and while affecting to be very much interested in them she picked their pockets. In this way she had annexed for several years past over £700. She had picked the pockets of exactly 67 Germans, and she was proud of it. As her reason for thus acting, the woman said that in 1870 her family in Normandy had been completely ruined by German invaders, who stole her father's cattle, pigs, fowls and even plate. She was then obliged to go out as a dairymaid, but not being accustomed to servitude she came to Paris, and began waylaying and robbing Germans. The magistrate listened to this tale calmly. It made no impression on him, for he sent the new Boule de Sulf back to the depot, there to await trial.

Salt Production.

The reported production of salt in the United States during 1904 was 22,030,002 barrels (of 280 pounds), valued at \$6,021,222, as compared with 18,968,089 barrels, valued at \$5,286,988 in 1903. This is the largest production ever reported except in 1902, but the average net price per barrel (27.332 cents) is lower than that reported in 1903 (27.873 cents) or in any previous year, with the exception of 1902, when the average net price realized was only 23.769 cents a barrel.

AMERICA'S FIRST COMPOSER

An Uncouth and Eccentric Tanner Wrote Patriotic Music a Century Ago.

Music scarcely had a voice before the time of William Billings, born in Boston, October 7, 1764. Yet, by trade, this man was a tanner, an eccentric and uncouth character, easily ridiculed even in his own days, says the National Magazine.

He is said to have chalked down his earliest compositions upon sides of leather. He was deformed in person, blind in one eye, untidy in dress, with one leg shorter than the other. A tremendous snuff taker, he carried tobacco as well around him in his coat, the pocket of which was purposely made of leather. But his music always had a spice of patriotism in it (a quality much prized at the time of the revolution), and so greatly did the colonists like his work that the strains of his inspiring tunes were heard from every pipe in the New England ranks, and led the way to victory on many a hard-fought field.

Billings is said to have been the first to introduce the violin into New England churches, a great step toward the ventful introduction of the organ. He also was probably the first to use the pitch pipe to "set the tune." He died in Boston, September 26, 1826, and published almost to the last. His is probably one of the unmarked graves on Boston Common.

LATEST UMBRELLA TRICK.

Smooth "Lifter" of Rain Chutes Changes Handles on Them and Easily Gets Away.

"About the slickest umbrella lifter in town dropped in the other day," remarked the head barber in one of the uptown hotels, according to the New York Globe.

"You don't say," replied the man in the chair. "How did he operate?"

"Oh, he was a changer."

"Ah, I see. He brought in an old umbrella and walked out with a new one."

"Oh, no; that's an old, clumsy game that was worked 20 years ago. This chap was up to the times and cribbed the rain shields by deftly changing handles. He carried a full stock of handles and when he sighted a fine silk umbrella with a gold or silver handle he slipped it off and screwed on something entirely different. Then he dropped the original handle in his pocket and leisurely awaited his opportunity to slip out without attracting attention."

"As everybody identifies their umbrella by the handle, this 'lifter' can walk right past you with your own umbrella and you never notice it. Oh, the world is moving, and even the umbrella thief keeps up with the times these days."

And the head barber changed the subject to hair tonics.

PROTECTION OF FISHES.

Various Ways in Which the Finned Creatures Defend Themselves from Foes.

The Australian leatherjacket will swim up with the hook in its lip and with its sharp teeth sever the slack line above. The pollack will plunge headlong to the rocks and fray the line against some handy shell of mussel or oyster. The blue shark twists in the water with such rapidity as to test the bravest gear.

The sharks and rays have obviously less to fear than the herring or mackerel. The fishes which live on the bottom can clearly disregard the attacks of such marauding fowl as the gull and gunnet, while even the cormorant and diver do not, as a rule, seek their prey far beneath the surface water. The typical ground-dwellers of our seas, moreover, the flatfish, are so formed, that, save when extremely small, they would in all probability choke any fowl so ill-advised as to try to swallow them whole. The scales of fishes are of little use as armor. In the case of crabs, lobsters and other "shell fish," however, their coverings are sure defenders, and they would seldom die except from old age.

Armada Relics.

Queer relics of the Spanish armada are being brought up from the bottom of Tobermory bay, on the coast of Scotland, during the present search for sunken treasure. Among the articles brought up by the divers the other day were two masses of powder, weighing about five pounds each, one with the impression of a musket barrel marked distinctly upon it. Other discoveries include the lid of a copper pan, fossils, a bullet, a human rib and an attractive piece of copper plate. The bullet, which is cylindrical in shape and two inches in diameter, weighs about two pounds, and was evidently cut off a bar when ammunition for weapons of that caliber had run short. The rib was that of a Spaniard of powerful build, and the copper plate, which was gilt, had engraved upon it a monogram and lines somewhat resembling Masonic emblems.

Old Salt Mines.

The famous salt deposits of Petite Anse, La., are known to have been mined by the aboriginal Americans, as is testified by the stone hammers and other tools found when the deposits were rediscovered in 1814 by John Marsh.

The Mersey Bar.

To keep the channels and the bar of the river Mersey at Liverpool at a depth of 27 feet at low water, 9,000,000 tons of sand were dredged from the estuary last year. Since 1890 about 88,000,000 tons have been removed in this way.

BUYING A CHINESE FAMILY.

Sojourner in Hong-Kong Acquires the Whole Household for Nominal Sum.

Looking about in Hongkong for a congenial household wherein to make my home for a few weeks, I fell in with a most friendly Chinaman—an elderly person whose family consisted of himself, his wife, several children, two sampans and certain wooden gods of various sizes and degrees of power. I acquired the whole for \$15 and was supposed to own everything, including the gods, for a period of three months, with board in the bargain. The food was good, too, well seasoned and palatable, though I did not always know just what I was eating. I gained flesh and I really saw something of China during those three months. The old man found his chief occupation in being head of the household and smoking opium, while his wife did washing for the vessels in the harbor, and ran the two sampans. She also acted as my foster mother and sometimes took me in a sampan to collect or deliver laundry, and I found myself indorsing the establishment among the ships of my acquaintance. Often my "foster sisters" took me in tow and we visited the neighbors or some theater, or took delightful rambles into the country, climbing the terraced hillsides to get a view of the splendid harbor. I really enjoyed being "Jack in clover" for the time, and acquired a great fondness for the Chinese life as I saw it. As a sailor I had let my hair grow long, and I now braided it in a pigtail, put on the national costume, and with tan and a little tint applied by my merry "relations" I passed well enough for a native to have a good deal of sport and to perpetrate a number of jokes, one of which came near landing me in a Chinese prison if not on the execution block.

UNDER THE KNIFE DAILY.

Woman Died Recently Who Had Been in Hire of Vivisectionists for Twenty Years.

Frau Magdalen Gelly, who for 20 years has been known among the medical faculty as the "vivisection rabbit," died at the age of 62 in Vienna.

Frau Gelly exercised the curious calling of a subject for anatomical experiments, and her services were in great demand by the most eminent surgeons. She owed her remarkable reputation as a subject for experiments to an abnormal formation and development of her respiratory organs.

Over these she had a marvelous command, controlling them at will and allowing them to be freely operated upon without the use of anesthetics. Under the operation she described to the assembled surgeons and students the sensations she experienced in her throat, nose, palate, tonsils and other organs under the action of the surgeon's knife.

Frau Gelly reported daily at the clinical laboratory and at the private houses of the most celebrated doctors of Vienna, usually carrying a black reticule containing all sorts of objects, such as needles, marbles, pins, pencils, etc., intended to be swallowed or passed through her nostrils or ears for experiments.

As the "vivisection rabbit" was paid three and sixpence for each sitting and averaged two daily for 20 years, she has left a small fortune, and, having died intestate, the money will probably be appropriated by the medical faculty of the university.

GODDESS' DIRE WRATH.

Recent Report from India Describes Workings of Strange Superstition.

A South Indian correspondent writes: "Recently a very singular report has been abroad among the women of this district respecting the bracelets they wear. The report is to the effect that certain bracelets are very dangerous, i. e., those that are made of 'Bombay' glass and have small moons and crescents, etc., imbedded in them. It is affirmed that a certain small worm bores its way out of this glass and bites the wearers of these ill-fated bracelets, and that whoever is bitten by this worm becomes afflicted with plague or some equally fatal disease and dies. The worm is said to be a small one with a very hard head."

"The report arose in Pithapuram, where three women are said to have died from the bite, and spread with great rapidity over the whole of the Godavary district. The result has been that thousands of these bracelets have been destroyed of late. The report goes on to say further that this glass was 'mined' in a quarry where there was an idol of a certain goddess, and that in getting the glass from the mine the idol was broken, and as a consequence the goddess has been very angry and has sent this disease as a punishment."

Bobby's Idea of It.

"Ma," exclaimed Bobby, "do you like anyone to bite you?"
"No, dear; why?"
"Well, Mr. Buttin just bit sister on the mouth and she put her arms around his neck and tried to choke him. I guess she doesn't like it, either!"—Puck.

The Whole Thing.

"Yes," said young Benedict, "we went to Niagara Falls on our honeymoon. Just as soon as we got off the train my wife and I walked right over to see the falls."
"Magnificent, eh?" remarked Hicks.
"You bet! You should have seen all the men rubbering at her as we walked along."—Catholic Standard and Times.

TRUTHFUL JAMES TESTIFIES

Kansas Character Tells One That May Test Credulity Just a Trifle.

"This year looks like a mighty fruitful year," remarked Truthful James as he looked over a field of corn that was standing about ten feet high, and still growing, relates the Kansas City Journal. "But I hev seen one or two years that would beat it all hollow. Back in 1875 I was livin' down in the Arkansas valley and everything did sure grow amazin' that year. I had a neighbor who was a little the slowest critter I ever see. He was a great feller to stand around and dream in the daytime and forget what was goin' on round him, apparently. One day he was a standin' out on some fresh plowed ground gazin' around as usual. While he was standin' there some wild mornin' glory seed that I suppose was in the ground when it was plowed up commenced to sprout and before that feller woke out of his day dream the vines had twined round his legs up above his knees and he was held fast to the ground just like he was rooted there. He commenced to holler for help and I heard him and come a runnin' with a brush seythe I had. By the time I got to him them blamed mornin' glories had grewed up and covered him over, makin' him look like a livin' bower of green. I managed to whack down the vines and turn Jim loose, but some of the stalks was over a quarter of an inch thick and it took a considerable spell to get Jim unbound after I had him out loose from the ground."

TALE OF CAT AND MIRROR

An Observer Doubts Printed Tale of the Animal's Wonderful Cleverness.

"I've half a mind to write to a paper in the New Hampshire village where I was born and reared," said a lover of animals, according to the Providence Journal, "and ask the editor if a story that I read in his last week's edition is a true story."

"It's about a wonderful cat that sits on the edge of the sidewalk with his back to the gutter and looks into a store window as if he didn't care for anything or anybody. When he sees by means of that window that the English sparrows are pecking close behind him he turns as cats can turn, like the whiff of a flashlight, and nails a bird or two."

"Now I've mused with cats and dogs and all kinds of living critters ever since I could walk; studied their ways and habits, and I never could make any of them pay the slightest attention to themselves in a mirror. I've held them up to the glass, thinking they might spit or growl or fight, and they weren't so much as interested. The joke was always on me."

"And you can't fool them on dummies, toys made in their own image and made perfectly—runabout rats and mice and imitations of that kind. They won't even paw them over and examine them. Accordingly, I'm rather doubtful about that very clever New Hampshire cat."

EAGLES THAT HUNT FOXES

Big Birds of Siberia Swoop Down and Quickly Snatch Up Their Unwary Prey.

A Siberian correspondent of the London Sphere sends some photographs relating to a form of fox hunting which is probably unique. The hunting of foxes with eagles takes place among the Khirgese, in the south-west district of Siberia, known as the general government of the steppes.

It is a favorite sport with the Khirgese, and takes place in the autumn and early winter, when the foxes' coats are ruddy and perfect, though hunting is not always confined to this period. The eagles selected for the purpose are powerful birds, of such weight that a small wooden support is carried by the eagle bearer. A well grown bird of more than usually fierce temperament will occasionally kill a wolf.

Directly any game is seen the birds make their flight and swoop down with great precision. "One of these birds has, to my knowledge," writes our correspondent, "killed 17 foxes in the last six weeks. I can vouch for the killing of foxes by eagles, for I personally took all these photographs and saw the whole sport from beginning to end."

Goldfish as Gold Spinners.

There is a steady demand for goldfish, both for use and for ornament. They make an attractive lure for bigger fish, hence are sought for and bought by anglers whenever such bait is needed. They are likewise purchased for the vast number of aquariums, private and public, which exist in every city and town. There are cheap goldfish and costly goldfish, some very common and others quite as rare. He who goes in for goldfish breeding on scientific lines is reasonably sure to turn a pretty profit.

Rigid Regulations.

Straight and narrow is the gate for professional men in the Argentine Republic. By law enacted in June all civil and mechanical engineers, architects, chemists, agronomists, and surveyors must hold diplomas from the national schools and universities, or if from foreign institutions pass examinations as are nearly everywhere required of dentists and physicians.

Goats of Paris.

Goat's milk, while used considerably in the United States, is preferred to cow's milk in many countries. In Parisian streets herds of goats may be seen supplying fresh milk during the day.